

RECEIVED 16 MAR 1998

ABSTRACT

A method and system for automatically conducting a business transaction between a user and a trader, including the functions of ordering, financial transaction, delivery initiation and data management. A trader terminal (170) includes billing information (200) representative of the trader and a user terminal (100) or user card (800) is used to receive and process the billing information (200) over a local communications link (300). The user terminal (100) or user card (800) includes user information representative of the user. The user information and billing information is transmitted by the user terminal (100) to a service provider (500) over a communications network (400) whereupon the service provider (500) automatically transfers funds of the user, which may be reserved funds, to the trader upon entry of a PIN by the user on the user terminal (100). Delivery destination information and information identifying the goods and/or services purchased by the user may be transmitted to the service provider (500) and to an electronic warehouse (900).